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### Competency assessment using a standardised tool across nursing programmes in Australia

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## Competency assessment using a standardised tool across nursing programmes in Australia

### Keywords

australia, programmes, nursing, assessment, across, competency, tool, standardised

### Disciplines

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## SHORT ORAL O 14

### Competency assessment using a standardised tool across nursing programmes in Australia (O 76 in programme)

**Brown, RA., Crookes, PA.**

In Australia, as in most countries, assessing nursing students' competence to practice in the clinical setting is challenging. This is based on the fact that although the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Councils National Competency Standards for the Registered Nurse (ANMC 2006) have been in operation in various guises since the early 90's (ANRAC 1990, ANCI 2001, ANC 2002), each pre-registration nursing programme in Australia (there are 39) has its own competency assessment tool, its own range of skills taught and a number of different support mechanisms for students in clinical practice.

This Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) project commenced in 2007 and concluded in March 2010. The study used three main approaches 1) a documentary analysis of universities curriculum (n=38); 2) nominal group work was used to explore assessment strategies and approaches and finally; 3) Delphi rounds were undertaken to clarify the skills areas. Finally a nursing competency assessment tool for the use across Australian universities was produced. This presentation will outline the utility of tools in practice and the research processes.

The ongoing work is the subject of a proposal for funding through the ALTCS Priority Project stream and Health Workforce Australia. There is significant interest across the sector both in Australia and internationally about the roll out and bench marking of the tool.

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